



## Applying the Concept of Neighboring Country Dynamics in Globalization

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### ABSTRACT

*Neighboring country dynamics play a significant role in global and regional affairs. This paper extends the research used to develop a model of globalization and includes the rationale for adding Neighboring Country Dynamics as a domain in the model. The concept of neighboring country dynamics is explained and applied using specific examples that demonstrate its significant influence on global institutions, trade blocks, regions, and countries.*

**KEYWORDS: international, cross-border, trade agreements, model, global institutions**

### Introduction

In restructuring Gopinath's model of globalization (2012) Riveras and Harrison (2016) designed a new definition of Globalization by combining elements from Gopinath (2008) and Al-Rodhan and Stoudmann (2006). "Globalization is a multidimensional process that encompasses the causes, course, and consequences of transnational and transcultural integration of human and non-human activities and represents the continuing effort by the peoples of the world to interact and share transnationally in the pursuit of their objectives" (p.374).

One element of globalization's multidimensional process includes Neighboring Country Dynamics (NCD). Riveras and

Harrison (2016) added NCD as part of a restructured model of globalization that also included the addition of Global Institutions and Trade Blocs. Global institutions, trade blocks, and neighboring country dynamics play a significant role in global and regional affairs (Riveras and Harrison 2016). Figure 1 illustrates the restructured model of globalization that builds from Gopinath's (2008, 2012) model. The restructured model includes the influences of the interactions between Neighboring Country Dynamics, Global Institutions, and Trade Blocs not captured explicitly in the model's original five domains.

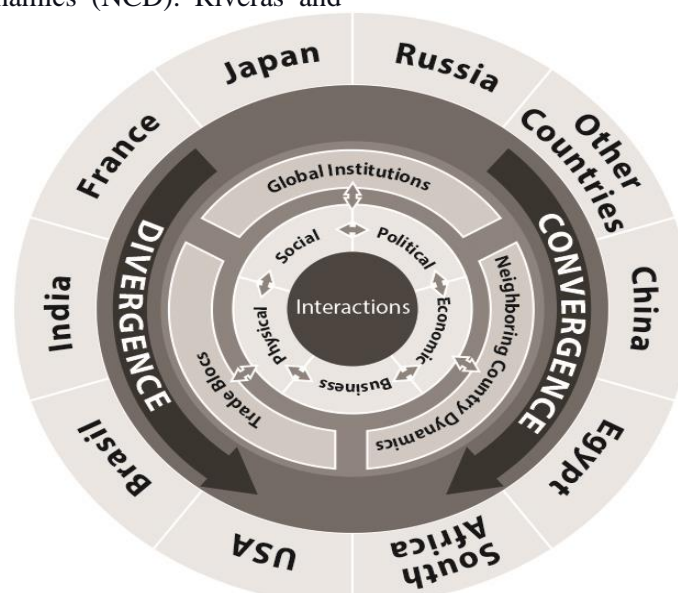


Figure 1. Restructured Model of Globalization



Applying the concept of NCD extends previous globalization research using specific examples that demonstrate the interactions of NCD on trade blocks and global institutions. This paper includes an analysis of NCD on the Pacific Alliance, unauthorized immigration, special economic zones (SEZs), the U.S. Mexico, Canada Agreement USMCA) formerly the North American Free Trade Agreement (USMCA), and global institutions. First, we begin with the definition of Neighboring Country Dynamics. Next, an NCD analysis between Russia and Ukraine is examined to demonstrate the application of the concept of NCD between the two countries.

### **NCD Defined**

The term “Neighboring Country Dynamics” may seem obvious. However, the literature is replete with border studies of various countries from a myriad of perspectives with no discernable definition listed in the publications. For example, Pearson (1974) examines foreign military intervention based on geographic proximity. Robst et.al. (2007) examine trade and international conflict and cooperation using geographic proximity. Grundy-Warr (2014) reviewed several books on border studies “tackling a broad range of issues: theorizing borders, border delineation, demarcation, evolution, management, cross-border trade, territoriality, ethnography, security, displacement, terrorism, insurgency, natural resources, and transnational governance” (p.154).

Amidi and Majid (2020) examine trade and economic growth through geographic proximity while Markowitz and Fariss (2018) examine geopolitical competition in the international system and include the political system of a country’s neighbor as a determinant for the probability of conflict or cooperation. Mutz and Simmons (2022) examine the impact border walls have on a country’s image and perceived security.

We, therefore, propose a definition of Neighboring Country Dynamics that is broad enough to encompass the broad and various relational aspects between countries while extending the current literature. Neighboring Country Dynamics is defined as “the interactive forces between two or more countries due to geographic proximity.”

### **NCD and the Russia/Ukraine War**

The current war between Russia and Ukraine provides examples of convergent and divergent influences on neighboring countries, global institutions, and trade blocks. While a full analysis of the war’s impact is beyond the scope of this paper, examples of NCD between the two countries demonstrate the application of the model across and between the outer ring (countries) and across and between the two inner rings. In addition to the country’s Economic, Political, Social, Business, and Physical interactions, several examples of applying NCD to global institutions, such as NATO and the EU, are warranted.

The historical dynamic between Russia and Ukraine is long and complex. “Russia has deep cultural, economic, and political bonds with Ukraine, and in many ways, Ukraine is central to Russia’s identity and vision for itself in the world” (Masters, 2022. para. 9). In 1917, Ukraine proclaimed

independence but was declared a constituent republic of the U.S.S.R. in 1922 after failing to repel the Soviets (History.Com Editors, 2021). In 1991, Ukraine achieved independence from Russia and maintained it for thirty-one years before Vladimir Putin authorized the Russian army to invade Ukraine and annex the Crimea Region calling the invasion a “special military operation” necessary to save the Russian-speaking people of the DONBAS Region and for the security of Russia itself (Roche, 2022, para. 1). The Russian invasion sparked a convergence toward membership in the EU and NATO for Ukraine and while driving Finland and Sweden to seek membership in NATO while generating divergence for EU and other countries, from cooperation with Russia economically.

Before the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. The Crimea traces back to Catherine the Great (Saluschev, 2014) when in 1783 “the Crimean Peninsula officially became part of the Russian Empire” (p.38). In 2014 Ukraine was diverging from Russian influence and sought convergence with the EU by signing the Association Agreement (including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) with the EU.

The Russian invasion sparked a further convergence toward membership in the EU and NATO for Ukraine while driving Finland and Sweden to seek membership in NATO and generating divergence for EU and other countries, from cooperating with Russia economically.

NATO was strengthened due to Russia’s invasion of its neighbor (Gunter, 2022). Russia’s actions prompted Finland and Sweden to apply for NATO membership and abandon their historical position of neutrality toward Russia. “The Russian invasion of Ukraine has reinvigorated the NATO alliance, giving it renewed purpose and unity, the exact opposite of Putin’s original intentions” (p. 93).

The EU converged to impose sanctions against Russia. “Since March 2014, the EU has progressively imposed restrictive measures on Russia in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, Russia’s unprecedented and unprovoked military attack against Ukraine in 2022, the illegal annexation of Ukraine’s Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions in 2022. The measures are designed to weaken Russia’s economic base, depriving it of critical technologies and markets and significantly curtailing its ability to wage war” (European Council, und. para. 2).

The spillover effects of the invasion impacted neighboring countries as well as countries around the globe. Ukraine’s neighboring countries Poland, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Czech Republic, and others, experienced a cross-border humanitarian crisis of displaced Ukrainians with Poland accepting over 3 million into their country between February 24 and April 21 alone (White et. al., 2022). The economic impact of Russia’s invasion of its neighbor impact is considerable and far-reaching. Increased food and energy prices may cause many European households to fall into



poverty while causing food shortages in the Middle East, North Africa, and Western and Central Asia (White, 2022).

The Conference Board (Peterson et. al., 2022) predicts significant negative impacts on global GDP growth with significant inflation for businesses and consumers worldwide.

The Neighboring Country Dynamics between Russia and Ukraine provide specific examples of areas of convergence and divergence of global institutions (NATO), trade blocks (EU), and neighboring countries (Finland and Sweden) as a result of Russia's invasion of its neighbor. The dynamic's impact reaches far and wide with negative effects on the global economy.

### Applying NCD to the Pacific Alliance

In this section, we employ the globalization model and apply the concept of NCD by examining the Pacific Alliance (PA) regional economic integration bloc established between Mexico, Colombia, Chile, and Peru in 2011.

The PA (in Spanish, la Alianza del Pacífico) regional economic integration bloc is a free trade area that was established between the member countries of Mexico, Colombia, Chile, and Peru on April 28, 2011, in the Declaration of Lima. The primary objectives of the PA are to "Build in a participatory and consensual way an area of deep integration to move progressively towards the free mobility of goods, services, resources, and people. Drive further growth, development, and competitiveness of the economies of its members, focused on achieving greater well-being, overcoming socioeconomic inequality, and promoting the social inclusion of its inhabitants. Become a platform of political articulation, economic and commercial integration and projection to the world, with emphasis on the Asia-Pacific region" (Alianza del Pacifico, 2019, para. 1).

The goals are broad, despite addressing specific areas of concern. "The Pacific Alliance is the eighth economic power and the eighth export force worldwide. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the block of countries represents 38% of the GDP, 50% of the total trade, and attracts 45% of the Foreign Direct Investment. The four countries gather a population of 225 million persons and have an average per capita GDP of USD 18,000. As an economic bloc, the Pacific Alliance is the 5th most populated sub-region in the world, with approximately 225 million people" (Alianza del Pacifico, 2019, para. 2).

One of the main goals of the PA was to expand commerce with the Asia-Pacific region; this strategy makes good economic sense since the member countries each have coasts along the Pacific Ocean and various shipping routes already exist. In addition, the member nations sought to counter global protectionism, such as the recent foreign policy of the United States under President Donald Trump. Furthermore, the PA likely formed as a counterbalance of another regional trading bloc, Mercosur (Mercado Común del Sur in Spanish), which adopted a protectionist approach. The PA was formed, in part, thanks to divergence (against the left-wing policies and protectionism of the Mercosur Common Market), and the bloc has been able to turn their common stance against these policies

into convergence within their bloc. Recently, there is the possibility of a future convergence between the two trade blocs. *The Economist* proclaims that "[t]he Pacific Alliance aims to create an area of 'deep integration' involving the free movement of goods, services, capital and people among its members. [...] [I]ts members abolished tariffs on 92% of their trade in goods and harmonized rules of origin (ie, the amount of local content required to qualify) to encourage the creation of value chains among their countries," (No Brussels Here, 2016, para. 6). All of which occurred in May of 2016. In the short time since its inception, the free trade agreement has had resounding success compared to similar areas of regional integration such as Mercosur, which has been decidedly less successful. According to an article by the Inter-American Development Bank, "the remaining 8% [of tariffs] will reach full liberalization over the next 3 to 7 years, except for [a] small group of products with tariff elimination schedules over 10 years" (The Pacific Alliance: Consolidating, n.d., para. 5). Although "the merger of the allies' stock markets has been hampered by tax and regulatory differences [and like] Mercosur, the alliance members have abolished tourist visas within the bloc and adopted mobility for people who enter their territories for up to six months, as long as the activities they perform are of an unpaid type, such as tourist travel, transit or business. Work visas are still required, though normally granted" (No Brussels Here, 2016, para. 6).

A comprehensive study of globalization and the PA should include a historical examination of the impact the Pacific Alliance has had on each member country and its current level of integration. Additionally, should examine changing trends, and potential expansion, and look into what policies and initiatives have promoted the spread of globalization while countering recent protectionist policies in nations around the world.

In the particular case of the PA, the concept of NCDs may not be as recognizable as in other areas, since the four countries do not all share borders with the others (Colombia and Peru are neighbors and share a border; Chile and Peru are as well. But Colombia and Chile, although in the same region, are not immediate neighbors. Mexico is in Latin America but is not an immediate neighbor of Colombia, Peru, or Chile). Nevertheless, the countries may share historical or common-goal convergence.

Bear in mind that NCDs are not only associated with sharing borders, as it also involves dynamics that could be historical or that have to do with the common goals of countries where convergence exists. In the case of the PA, geographically speaking and by looking at a map, it is easy to locate a geographical and political divide created between the Mercosur and PA countries. Also, NCDs in this case are part of an increasing regionalism. The NCDs of Venezuela (a former Mercosur member) and Colombia, which are neighboring countries, pushed them to Mercosur and the PA respectively due to differences in the government systems.

Regarding the PA, government policies of country members, the goal of convergence, common history, and the fact they are in the same region can be considered to be within the





scope of the definition of NCD. Thus, the PA's NCD can be expanded to include historical ties such as having similar cultures, languages, and conquerors, as well as geographic adjacency. The PA countries have a common goal to take advantage of their geographic location and access to the Pacific Ocean to expand their ties with Asian countries.

One NCD related to the original divergence between Mercosur and the PA can now be turned into a potential convergence between the two blocs. Bolivia, which is geographically located between both the PA and the Mercosur blocs, entered the Mercosur Common Market but has historical ties to the PA. Bolivia, a landlocked nation, lost access to the coast of the Pacific Ocean in 1904, in the War of the Pacific against Chile. Due to the political and historical ramifications of a potential convergence or integration between the blocs, Bolivia could be the key piece in the merger as the joining member between the two. Bolivia could benefit from a connection to both blocs and may not regain its free trade access to the Pacific Ocean, which would help ease the tense political situation between Bolivia and Chile. Bolivia unsuccessfully attempted to sue Chile in 2013 over ports and ocean access.

The NCD within Latin America may be preventing trade between neighboring countries. Deborah Elms, the executive director of the Asian Trade Centre, says "[a]ttempts to engage a larger membership may be motivated by obstacles preventing cross-border trade within their region" (Jegarajah, 2017, para. 6). Infrastructure could be a potential solution. Elms says the PA nations are at a disadvantage because neighboring countries in the Mercosur bloc "ha[ve] been stuck and protectionist forever. This has left Chile unable to craft a sensible trade strategy in the region. They have instead struck out on their own and signed agreements with anyone else who is willing and started down the PA path to help them cope with their problem" (Jegarajah, 2017, para. 7). This reasoning helps to explain the formation of the PA and the recent agreements by member countries signing FTAs with other nations.

Andrew Tuck's 2014 article published by the National Center for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation argues that the region's size and lack of developed infrastructure are harming intra-member trade. The passage of what eventually became the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) "won't help the countries develop roads, bridges, ports, and airports to increase productivity. The region's transport infrastructure will require billions of dollars of investment to match the level of the world's most competitive economies" (Tuck, 2014, p. 8). He argues that as an example, "shipping a container from Bogotá to the port of Barranquilla (both located in Colombia) is three times the cost of shipping it from Barranquilla to Hong Kong, while Santiago is about as far away from Mexico City as London is from Nairobi" (Tuck, 2014, p. 8). The shipping costs on land have to improve if the Alliance wants to increase intra-member trade and exports to other Latin American countries. Tuck also claims "[g]eography partially explains why Latin American countries are not big

trading partners with each other. According to the WTO, only 27% of all Latin American exports go to other countries in the region. By comparison, 70% of European exports remain in Europe, and half of all Asian and North American exports are bought by neighboring countries" (Tuck, 2014, p. 8). For the bloc to succeed, infrastructure must improve, to lower shipping costs and make land-based trade a more economical and viable option.

Another aspect of the NCD is how divergence from the protectionist dynamics the US implemented during the Trump administration helped the PA become further unified, stronger, and more attractive to new associate and member countries. Colombia, Peru, and Chile stood with Mexico when it was under the attack of the Trump administration, and Mexico knew the PA offered options for expanding to other markets. In addition, it reduced dependence on exports to the US and created further potential for Latin American integration with Mercosur (Foster, 2020). In essence, the Trump administration inadvertently weakened the US position and strengthened the PA members' positions. Ultimately, the NCDs between Mercosur and the PA are immense, and the potential impact of further integration between these two blocs will create a major global player. Ecuador is in the process of joining the PA as well as Costa Rica, and Singapore recently concluded the negotiation of an FTA. South Korea and Canada will probably follow.

### **Applying the Concepts of NCDs to Unauthorized Immigration and Globalization**

The NCD concepts could be employed when analyzing the issue of unauthorized immigrants residing in the U.S. which is a very profound and polarizing topic. The issue has proven to be rooted in biases and divisiveness among the two main political parties in the U.S. The divergence of the U.S. from globalization has created strong contentious opinions about immigration as a byproduct. The globalization model can be employed as the framework to study unauthorized immigration from a multidimensional point of view. This model creates a structured lens for the analysis by looking into multiple domains.

In this example employing NAFTA, the two neighboring countries U.S. and Mexico have an FTA between them, but have taken independent actions that impact one another causing reactions. In some cases, these have been positive; like attracting FDI, or negative, such as illegal immigration, the closing of borders, war, illegal contraband, or policies from one government that may harm its neighbors.

NCDs are particularly important to consider in the globalization process as they often play a role in trade agreements and are a significant influence on global divergence or convergence. Thanks to economic and institutional factors, the flow of FDI into Mexico accelerated during the 1990s; this is also a result of its strategic and economic relationships with the U.S. (Ramirez, 2002). Furthermore, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2017), both outward and inward FDI stocks have been



growing relative to GDP since 2008, and investment in Mexico was much more substantial, equivalent to 44% of GDP. According to Santander Mexico (2018), Mexico is a great place for foreign investors to look when deciding where to put their FDI. The placement of the country, sharing a border with the U.S. and near South America, matched with labor costs that are 'comparable to China', a young and talented workforce, and being the eighth most popular tourist destination for travelers all around the world, all contribute to the country as a prime area to set up a business (Santander, 2018). In addition, Mexico has signed an extensive list of trade deals with up to 30 different countries, making it a well-equipped area to conduct business (Ministry of Economy, 2015).

Based on data collected by Santander Group, as of 2016, FDI is down slightly from previous years: in 2016, there was an inflow of \$26.7 million but this is down from \$33.1 million in 2015 and \$27.5 million in 2014 (Santander, 2018). Sources of FDI to Mexico are diverse, but the largest contributor is the U.S. Many different factors contribute to this but the overall reason is that of NCD. The proximity of the U.S. and Mexico mixed with its relation to trade make the two countries appealing to one another. The low cost of labor in Mexico attracts FDI from companies in the U.S. and the abundance of jobs draws UI from Mexico into the U.S. During 2016, companies from the U.S. contributed 44% of the total FDI; this is four times the size of the next largest contributor, Spain, which contributed 11% of the total. These two are followed by countries that contribute 10% or below, most notably the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, UK, Japan, and Germany which contribute 10%, 7%, 6%, 4%, 3%, and 3% respectively.

The vast majority of FDI goes to the manufacturing industry and represents 61.3% of the total. Following manufacturing, but with fewer inflows, are industries that include financial services, transport, mining, and electricity which all respectively take in 9.6%, 5.9%, 4.7%, and 4.3% (Santander, 2018).

NCD is linked to violence and crime which seem to be related to organized crime and drug cartels which appear to be originated in Mexico. Over the past year, there has been an alarming increase in the murder rate in Mexico which is now up 63% from a six-year low in 2014. On average 20.5 people in Mexico are murdered out of every 100,000, which is five times the US figure and has been increasing for the last decade; this dramatic surge in violence has been attributed to the New Generation Jalisco Cartel, known by its Spanish initials as CJNG (Montes, 2018). With all this violence going on not too far south of the US border, there has been a negative stigma attached to UI.

Many believe that UI crossing the border is not only a threat to the economy but also a threat to the society they enter. In 2006, this threat was felt at a higher level, causing the governors of both New Mexico and Arizona to declare a state of emergency (Hanson, 2007). This perceived threat caused then President George W. Bush to enact the Secure Fence Act

(Hanson, 2007). By signing this into law, President Bush authorized the creation of a \$1.2 billion fund that was set up for the construction of a seven-hundred-mile-long fence that would run along certain sections of the U.S.-Mexico border (Hanson, 2007). Currently, there are about 650 miles of fencing that have been established from when the law was passed until now (Aull, 2015). Of these 650 miles, three different types of fencing are implemented. The primary fencing is 352 miles long and its main purpose is to stop any pedestrians from crossing over. The secondary fencing is the shortest segment, being only 36 miles long, and is part of the 352-mile-long primary fence. It constitutes an added barrier set in front of the primary fencing to deter people from attempting to cross. Finally, the last 299 miles consist of vehicle barrier fencing to stop any land vehicles from crossing over from either side, mainly with drug trafficking in mind (Aull, 2015).

With the majority of the 700 miles being covered by fencing, it would appear that the Secure Fence Act is complete but this is where the differing opinions emerged. Controversies emerged about the type of fences, and whether additional money should be put into other things like cameras and other surveillance systems. This led to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, which changed the requirement of secondary fencing to be optional (Aull, 2015). Due to this change, there were only 36 miles of the originally intended 700 miles with primary and secondary fencing. The second largest portion of the fence, the vehicle barrier fencing, is where the real controversy on security is called into the discussion.

These segments were created with the sole purpose of stopping any vehicles from crossing over. Therefore, they were created with vehicles in mind, not people. Because of this, the fencing is primarily made up of steel barriers that a car would not be able to break through, but a person can simply climb over or under. This is the grey area that was used as a platform to help launch the current President of the U.S., Donald Trump, into the presidency (Wang, 2016).

This uptick in crime and violence is what President Trump has used to rally his supporters around the idea of the wall. "With every reference to Mexicans by Trump during the US campaign, the populist Andrés Manuel López Obrador, known as AMLO, saw his chances improve" (Ghitis, 2018). Mr. López Obrador was considered one of the most anti-American Mexican presidential candidates (Ghitis, 2018). The Washington Times (2017) describes him as being "extracted from the mold of Fidel Castrol, Hugo Chavez, and Nicolas Maduro" and "a demagogue with a gift for incendiary rhetoric." He ran for and come extremely close to winning the Mexican presidency twice (The Washington Times, 2017). Leading in the polls, Mexican nationalists joke that President Trump had "become López Obrador's campaign manager" because of how Obrador was capable of attacking Trump and using Trump's comments about Mexico to boost his campaign (Ghitis, 2018). AMLO won the presidential election that took place on 1st July 2018 and was sworn in as the 58th President of Mexico on 1st December 2018.



It is too early to know which direction AMLO will take Mexico, but he has clearly stated that he will put poor Mexicans first. Up to now, during the current US government shutdown and the controversies involving the wall, he has not commented about it. Canada is feeling the backlash of this hostility as well. Canada, one of the three members of NAFTA, is the only other country to share a border with the U.S. and has been recently experiencing a massive uptick in illegal immigration. Trump has been increasing the pressure by cracking down on businesses that hire UI (Semotiuk, 2018). Added to this, the Trump administration has recently canceled temporary protected status (TPS) for around 200,000 Salvadorians. In addition to this, Nikki Haley, the US Ambassador to the UN, announced that the U.S. would no longer be continuing with the U.N.'s global impact on migration (Semotiuk, 2018). This indicates that the TPS for Hondurans in the U.S. may also be canceled, sending many more UI running for the border, even though it is not the border which they came from (Semotiuk, 2018).

### **Applying the Concepts of NCDs to Special Economic Zones and Globalization**

This section focuses on applying the concept of NCD to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the U.S. and their relationships with globalization. As explained by Farole and Akinci (2011), a special economic zone (SEZ) is a heterogeneous policy instrument that varies greatly depending on the objectives, infrastructure, politics, and geographical location of individual countries. This tool can be broadly defined as demarcated geographic areas contained within a country's national boundaries where the rules of business are different from those that prevail in the national territory (Farole and Akinci, 2011).

SEZs are defined as part of the territory of a contracting party where any goods introduced are generally regarded as being outside of customs territory, insofar as import duties and taxes are concerned. The terminology has evolved, reflecting the variety of activities performed in the zones. The most common terms are free trade zone (US), export processing free zone, free export zone, industrial free zone, special economic zone (China), and maquiladora (Mexico) (Kusago and Tzannatos, 1998). Tiefenbrun (2013), in her article about US FTZs, created a detailed summary of the different types of SEZs and their specifications. We opt to use the most general term, SEZ, in our analysis. Although SEZs located in the U.S. have been designated as foreign trade zones (FTZs), in this paper we will use SEZs as the more generic term.

In the U.S., SEZs are secure areas under the supervision of US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that are considered outside the customs territory of the U.S. for duty payment and are located in or near customs ports of entry. Authority for establishing these facilities is granted by the FTZ Board under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), and the Board's regulations (15 C.F.R. Part 400). The Executive Secretariat of the Board is located within the Enforcement and Compliance of the US Department of Commerce in Washington, DC (Foreign Trade Zone Board, 2015). Ports are

an integral part of SEZs, and since nearly all major ports in the U.S. are in SEZs, we can use data from ports, such as employment and economic impact, in the discussion of SEZs.

SEZs epitomize our chosen definition of globalization and its multidimensional approach. Interaction, share, and transnationality are part of SEZs alongside the level of integration the U.S. has with other members of a trade agreement. According to Hill (2014) when discussing regional economic integration, several levels of economic integration are possible in theory. From least integrated to more integrated, they are free trade areas, a customs union, a common market, an economic union, and, finally, a full political union. The U.S. is part of an FTA with Mexico and Canada known as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); the NAFTA agreement represents the least integrated level of economic integration.

The purpose of SEZs is to generate employment, attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and new technology, provide foreign market access, and earn foreign exchange through the expansion of exports (Farole and Akinci, 2011). SEZs in the U.S. are designated areas normally set up in the vicinity of seaports, airports, or inland ports, while SEZ subzones are allowed outside of SEZs, normally in manufacturing areas (Pakdeenurit et al., 2014). This configuration offers the possibility of using data from key US ports to help in the investigation of the existence and implications of SEZs according to different dimensions of globalization.

The number of existing SEZs around the world has increased considerably from 79 in 1975 to more than 4,300 in 2014 increase of more than 4,000% in the last 40 years (The Economist, 2015). Boyenge (2007) stated that the number of countries with at least one SEZ increased from 25 in 1975 to 130 in 2006. According to the World Bank (WB), the growth of SEZs became important beginning in the '90s. One major characteristic of SEZ is the generation of employment. In 2007, SEZs directly employed 68 million people around the world and added over US\$500 billion of direct trade-related value within the zones (FIAS, 2008). The 76th Annual Report of the FTZ Board to the Congress of the U.S. in 2015 specifies that during 2014, there were 179 active SEZs in the U.S., with a total of 311 active production operations.

Research on SEZs in the U.S. focusing on globalization or that is multidimensional is limited to a few authors and publications (Beenhakker and Damanpour, 1992; Jones, 2009; Tiefenbrun, 2013; Griswold, 2013, 2015). Usually, the main focus is on the economic implications of their creation and functioning. There is no research employing a globalization model when it comes to SEZs in the U.S., and much less related to NCD specifically.

Considering that SEZs employ people, they are vehicles of connection for people, countries, and businesses. They promote and support trade, and they facilitate transnational transactions and interactions among people and organizations. Furthermore, the WCO stated that the admission to a free zone, an SEZ, shall be authorized not only for goods imported directly





from abroad but also for goods brought from the customs territory of the contracting party concerned. This demonstrates that SEZs provide ample connection for foreign and domestic trade and embody transnational sharing, which is one of the fundamental concepts in the definition of globalization. Thus, the relationship between our definition of globalization and SEZs is clear.

We can understand how neighboring country dynamics influence the convergence or divergence of the inner and outer domains depicted in the globalization model by examining SEZs. Take the dynamics between Mexico and the U.S., for example. Villarreal (2015) explains that among the reasons for the increased FDI was the liberalization of Mexico's restrictions on FDI in the late 1980s and the early 1990s. Since they were neighbors, the U.S. used the Mexican SEZs due to lower manufacturing costs and geographic proximity to the border; thus, US companies were forced to invest in Mexico. To accelerate the investment, the Mexican Government liberalized FDI restrictions making them even simpler, which further developed the ties between the neighbors.

The U.S. geographical position sharing borders with Mexico and Canada has created active trade relations, which in turn have economic and business impacts much larger than with any other country with which the U.S. has trade agreements. However, the proximity has also opened up the possibility for migration from Mexico to the U.S.

During election cycles, as in the recent past, illegal immigration dominates the campaign and media rather than the benefits of the NAFTA agreement. The globalization model allows analysis of this situation, too, as one of the five domains is the political domain.

An example of Colombia and Venezuela was previously discussed, but we didn't analyze it from the perspective of SEZs. When Venezuela decided to close its borders with Colombia for political reasons in 2015, it affected the significant trade ties between the countries (Orta, 2015). Venezuelans desperate due to the scarcity of goods illegally crossed the borders to purchase food and medicines in the border city of Cucuta, a recognized SEZ.

The decision to close the border between the neighboring countries has disrupted social, economic, political, and business activities, especially in the SEZ. Colombia and Venezuela used to be in the same trade bloc; however, when this bloc ceased to exist, Colombia became more attracted to the U.S. and Venezuela to its neighbor and new trade bloc partner, Brazil. Thus, their neighboring dynamics changed. Colombia and the U.S. have an FTA but they do not have the neighboring country dynamics as Mexico has with the U.S.

If the U.S. was not sharing borders with Mexico; Mexican SEZs perhaps will not be located at the border and may not have been a successful way for US companies to integrate their value chain with them. The neighboring country dynamics between Canada and the U.S. are different from those from Mexico and the U.S. These have different effects and

consequences; the economic, political, and social domains may exert influence, but we do not observe, for example, Mexican illegal immigration into Canada as we do with the U.S.

### **Applying NCD to the USMCA**

The globalization model is used to examine the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that was established between Canada, the United States, and Mexico in 1994. The study takes a historical look at the benefits produced by the agreement for each country as well as at the areas where it has fallen short. Shortcomings included a lack of planning for the evolution of North America and a lack of vision for further integration that has encouraged evolution stagnation. The paper assessed further integration into a common market, immigration reform, the potential of the new level of integration to strengthen the position of the bloc, the potential of further cooperation to improve the economy of the bloc by increasing competitiveness and support for each member country in areas where they are weak. In this section, we focus our attention on the NCD domain of the USMCA.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) defines regional trade agreements (RTA) as "reciprocal trade agreements between two or more partners" (WTO RTA, 2023) and, according to the WTO, these include free trade agreements and customs unions. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a free trade area and it came into force on January 1, 1994. The main objective of the agreement was to form a free trade area between Mexico, Canada, and the United States (US). After coming into effect, NAFTA has had an influence on its members in many ways. However, the lingering shortfalls of NAFTA and hopes for expanded trade promotion may justify moves toward further integration. NAFTA has been rediscussed and modifications have been included. NAFTA is now renamed the USMCA.

The NCD forces between two countries due to geographic proximity result in consequences that may be different or non-existent if the countries were not neighbors. Demonstrating divergence, Schmitz (2001) revealed in his findings that globalization has so far not made geography a political category, and an outdated issue. This is the case even when countries have signed FTAs. To describe the concept, we are using some countries and situations as an example. Another interesting point worthy of attention is the difference between the concepts of NCDs and trade blocs.

Border research covers many topics, among these are: delineation, evolution, management, transnational governance, and spillover effects. Apart from Mexico and the US, there are multiple examples of NCD such as Chile-Bolivia and Colombia-Venezuela. The relations between Chile and Bolivia have been strained over the issue of gas. Bolivia's political volatility over gas and Chile's refusal to discuss the issue of access to the sea were viewed as being part of the same quagmire of relations. However, despite disparities in development between the two countries, globalization has altered the context of mutual engagement (Gangopadhyay, 2014).



Colombia and Venezuela held extensive trade relations, as they were part of the same trade bloc, in addition to their proximity and different complementary industries. Nevertheless, on August 19, 2015, Venezuela decided to close its borders with Colombia for political reasons, despite the significant trade ties between the countries (Orta, 2015). Many Venezuelans, desperate due to the scarcity of goods, illegally crossed the borders to purchase food and medicine in the border city of Cucuta, a recognized SEZ. The decision to close the border between neighboring countries has disrupted social, economic, political, and business activities, especially in the SEZ. Colombia and Venezuela used to be in the same trade bloc; however, when this bloc ceased to exist, Colombia became more closely aligned with the US and Venezuela with its neighbor and new trade bloc partner, Brazil. Thus, their NCDs changed.

The closeness between Mexico and the US has given further rise to SEZs, which are called maquiladoras in Mexico. Nowadays, US firms perform many manufacturing and assembly operations in Mexico. This is certainly in part due to cost advantages but more so because the US is a neighbor to Mexico. The products assembled in SEZs are then re-exported to the US and other countries (Taylor, 2006). The US expansion into Mexico's SEZs made them part of their value chain. If the US was not sharing borders with Mexico; Mexican SEZs perhaps will not be located at the border and may not have been a successful way for American companies to integrate their value chain with them. In contrast, Colombia which also has lower labor cost advantages and established SEZs does not enjoy the same level of relations with the US due to its lack of proximity. It was the NCDs advantage Mexico offered to the US, one of the top reasons to argue in favor of Mexico becoming part of NAFTA.

The US geographical position sharing borders with Mexico and Canada has created active trade relations, which in turn have economic and business impacts much larger than with any other country with which the US has trade agreements. However, the proximity has also opened up the possibility for migration from Mexico to the US. As with global institutions and trade blocs, the nature and complexity of interactions of NCDs influence on convergence or divergence of the inner and outer domains depicted in the globalization model. The NCDs between Canada and the US are different from those from Mexico and the US. These have different effects and consequences; the economic, political, and social domains may exert influence, but we don't observe, for example, Mexican illegal immigration into Canada as we do with the US further proof of the NCDs concept.

Another aspect of the NCDs to highlight concerning NAFTA is its relation to FDI from the US into Mexico, as mentioned by Villarreal (2015). Considering the interest of American companies in SEZs in Mexico, the Mexican government liberalized FDI restrictions, making them even simpler, which further developed the ties between neighbors. Ultimately, we observe the cross-border spillover effect of US

gun laws and violence in Mexico. The 2004 expiration of the U.S. Federal Assault Weapons Ban exerted a spillover on gun supply in Mexican municipalities near Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico, but not near California, which retained a pre-existing state-level ban (Dube, Dube, and Garcia-Ponce, 2013).

### **Neighboring Country Dynamics and Global Institutions**

The interactions between Global Institutions and Neighboring Country Dynamics are demonstrated by the involvement of many international and global institutions. Another generic example that could be cited is how political changes in Venezuela affected the relations with neighboring Colombia. The two countries held significant trade relations due to their proximity and different complementary industries. Venezuela's main industries are Oil & Mineral Fuels, Organic Chemicals, and Iron & Steel. Colombia on the other hand, is more diversified and has a larger agricultural sector. Despite this mutual dependency; on August 19, 2015, Venezuela decided to close its borders with Colombia for political reasons despite the significant trade ties between the countries (Orta, 2015). The decision to close the border between the neighboring countries has disrupted social, economic, political, and business activities.

"Several international bodies including the Organization of American States (OAS), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), and the UN have stepped in to help find a solution to the escalating problem, yet a resolution at this point remains elusive" (Sonneland, & Castillejo, 2015, para. 17).

Additionally, Venezuela, "already the largest weapons importer in South America" plans to buy more Russian and Chinese arms (Bender, 2015, para. 2.). Colombia and neighboring countries are on alert. Colombia is pursuing NATO membership and has signed a security cooperation agreement (NATO, 2014). The agreement is "aimed at exchanging intelligence information to improve the capabilities on both sides of the Atlantic to face common threats, particularly transnational crime" (Sanchez, 2014, para. 1). The agreement has yet to be ratified by the Colombian Congress. However, the agreement has created concern among other neighboring Latin American countries where certain country leaders regard the NATO agreement as a potential NATO "beachhead" (Sanchez, 2014, para. 1.).

Onder (2008) expresses the paradoxical nature between globalization and regionalization where both processes are occurring simultaneously. "This seemingly paradoxical phenomenon has raised the question of whether regionalism contradicts or complements globalization and whether it obstructs or reinforces globalization" (p.86). Rosero (2015) examines Latin American countries and their neighboring effects on international currency reserves. "Using a sample of the seven largest Latin American economies, the empirical evidence presented here suggests that countries take into consideration the volatility conditions of their neighbors when determining their optimal level of reserves" (p. 467).

### **Conclusion**

Globalization is a multidimensional process. Including NCD in the restructured globalization model adds a significant





area for analyzing and assessing convergent and divergent influences on global institutions, trade blocks, and other pertinent elements in the globalization model. Including NCD when analyzing global relationships and events lends itself to a more robust and insightful understanding of multifaceted and multilayered interactions. Neighboring Country Dynamics between two countries, Russia and Ukraine, explore historical, proximate, economic, and political interactions that span across and between elements in the Globalization model as well as between the model's inner ring elements, namely Global Institutions. The examples of convergences and divergence in Neighboring Country Dynamics covered in this paper support the need for its inclusion in a model of globalization. Applying NCD across and between the model's elements demonstrates the complexity of interactions and supports the contention that a more robust analysis is accomplished with its inclusion.

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